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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Patent Application of

Hideaki TAKAHASHI et al.

Application No.: 09/933,715

Group Art Unit: 2171

Filed: August 22, 2001

Examiner: To Be Assigned

For: COMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND INFORMATION PROCESSING METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

✓ Please amend the application by entering the enclosed substitute specification in place of that which was previously filed. A red-lined copy of the specification is also attached incorporating the changes.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 11, 16, and 17 as shown in the Appendix. The claims as amended are shown below as follows:

1. (amended) A communication system comprising:

A1 a first management apparatus for managing first privilege information generated in accordance with a transaction that is conducted by a user via a network in a virtual